Home demonstration agent.

Home demonstrations section

Ext. work with women no. 23

1921

# HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK in the NORTHERN AND WESTERN STATES

The Farm Home Survey just completed by the Woman's Section Office of Extension Work, North and West, with its wealth of information, has thrown a gigantic searchlight upon conditions in the rural home. There can be little doubt, in the minds of those who have studied this problem, that the home demonstration agent as one of the leaders in an organization of farm men and women in the county will do more toward solving the farm home problems than any other one agency. She is able to study local needs, to secure the services of and give helpful advice to the workers of other organizations.

## THE HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

The county home demonstration agent is jointly employed by the State, the Federal government, and the county farm bureau, and her headquarters are usually in the office of the county farm bureau or other county Extension organization located at the county seat. She is assisted in her work in the counties by specialists from the state agricultural college in the various phases of home economics, agriculture and rural life.

The specialists are women and men especially trained along some one line of home economics or agriculture subject matter.

The county farm bureau is an association of rural and rural-minded men and women. Its purpose is to study local and county needs, and to forward and carry out a program of concrete achievement, to improve agricultural and home making methods, and to make the community a better place to live in.

In each community the women of the farm bureau, with the ad-

vice of the home demonstration agent, outline the phases of home economics on which they desire the assistance of the home demonstration agent. The home economics projects of the farm bureau program then become the program of the home demonstration agent.

Therefore, the lines of work carried on by the home demonstration agents depend upon the county program which, inturn, depends upon the choice of the local people.

## PROJECTS AND RESULTS

Following is a list of the most important projects carried on by the women in the 231 organized counties in the North and West, and some of the results obtained:

### Food Production-

Gardening and poultry work were of chief importance, although goat raising and apiaries were included in the food production programs in some States.

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| Gardens planted- | 31,177 |
| Value of products from gardens- | $421,531 |
| Poultry flocks culled- | 3,100 |
| Non-laying hens eliminated- | 106,806 |
| Number of local leaders trained in butter and cheese making- | 635 |
| Number women instructed by these local leaders- | 16,095 |

### Food Preservation-

Reports for 1919 show that food preservation as a home industry was carried on probably as extensively as during the war with particular developments in the preservation of meat, poultry, game and fish.

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| Fruit and vegetables canned- | 1,628,035 qts. |
| Jams and jellies made- | 404,692 qts. |
| Dried fruits and vegetables- | 378,370 lbs. |
| Number driers purchased for home drying- | 588 |
| Brined vegetables- | 72,113 qts. |
| Poultry canned- | 61,934 qts. |
| Beef canned- | 52,213 qts. |
| Pork canned- | 24,566 qts. |
| Pork smoked or pickled- | 439,338 lbs. |
| Game, rabit and fish preserved- | 136,396 lbs. |
| Estimated value of foods preserved- | $1,025,513 |

Nutrition-

This work included child welfare, child feeding, hot school lunch and milk campaigns. The child welfare work included weighing and measuring clinics, nutrition classes and home demonstrations regarding food selection. The project included a definite piece of work in the increased use of milk and milk products in the home and school, and the home manufacture of milk products; the establishment of milk stations in conducting milk campaigns, and the making and use of cottage cheese, cheddar cheese and goats' milk cheese.

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| Hot school lunches established in schools- | 2,929 |
| Number of children reached- | 60,022 |
| Number children showing marked improvement as a result of hot school lunch- | 5,223 |
| Number counties adopting meal planning and food selection projects- | 268 |
| Total increase in home use of milk, reported in 12 States- | 1,049,015 qts. |
| Total increase in home use of butter, reported in 12 States- | 1,028,644 lbs. |

Personal Hygiene and Home Sanitation

This project included personal hygiene, sanitary disposal of sewage, safe water supply, home care of sick, rudiments of home nursing, essentials of sex education, pre-natal and postnatal care of mothers, and the traveling dental equipment.

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| Number of talks and demonstrations on health subjects- | 3,500 |
| Number home visits where instructions for home care of sick were given- | 2,000 |
| Number families given instruction in care of sick- | 7,729 |
| Number families adding emergency supplies to home | 16,000 |

Clothing

The clothing work included clothingconstruction, home made dress forms, efficiency methods in sewing; use of machine attachments, selection of textiles and clothing, the clothing budget, dyeing and dry cleaning, remodeling, and children's clothing; and the establishment of salvage shops for remodeling and renovating.

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| Garments made or remodeled | 45,952 |
| Estimated saving in clothing- | $280,036 |

Home Management

Projects in home management were carried on in practically every State with labor saving equipment, household accounts, rearrangement of kitchen, and installation of water in the home as predominating phases of this work.

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| Number kitchens in farm homes rearranged- | 1,169 |
| Number washing machines purchased- | 659 |
| Number pressure and steam cookers purchased- | 1,452 |
| Number water systems installed | 473 |
| Number families keeping household accts.- | 5,507 |
| Number families adopting budget system- | 1,078 |
| Number pieces power machinery introduced for home use- | 381 |

Home Planning and Furnishing

This project is just beginning, and includes tree planting (especially in arid regions), improvement of public camping grounds, improvement of school buildings and other public buildings and grounds, planting of flowers and shrubs, and clean-up campaigns.

Boys' and Girls' Clubs

Another activity which has claimed the time of the home demonstration agents is the organization and direction of boys and girls clubs. During 1919 this occupied approximately one fourth the time of the home demonstration agents carrying on this work.

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| Boys and Girls' club organized- | 2,549 |
| Total membership | 23,952 |

Community Enterprises

This included food preservation centers, cooperative laundries cooperative buying and selling associations, salvage shops, recreation centers, civic improvement, study tours, circulating libraries, magazine circles, rest rooms, hot school lunch and public markets.

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|---|---|
| Community centers established- | 208 |
| Cooperative buying and selling asso.- | 66 |
| Membership in cooperative asso.- | 12,889 |
| Estimated value of cooperative business- | $45,927 |
| Salvage shops opened- | 191 |
| Community rest rooms established- | 58 |
| Recreation centers established- | 96 |
| Number of people reached through home demonstration agents through their various activities- | 2,132,899 |

FINANCING HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

Sources of Funds

The salary and expenses of the county home demonstration agent are derived from federal and local sources as follows:

1. Federal

   a. Money appropriated by Congress to the United States Department of Agriculture for extension purposes.
   b. Money available to the states for cooperative extension work under the provisions of the Smith-Lever Extension Act of 1914.

2. State

   Appropriations by state legislatures usually to state agricultural colleges either specifically for home demonstration work or for general extension work.

3. Local

a. Appropriations by county commissioners or boards of supervisors
b. A few states use money raised by the membership fee in the county farm bureau to assist in defraying some part of the home demonstration salaries.

Funds used in 1919.-

Total funds (state, federal and local) $747,360.79
Amount appropriated within counties, $282,125.72
Average county appropriation, $500 to $1500

Statistics-

Home demonstration agents in counties-

| Year | 1917 | 1918 | 1919 | 1920 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Counties* | 20 | 602 | 433 | 231 |

Number of agricultural counties 1632
Number of home demonstration agents July 1, 1920 296
Woman membership in farm bureaus December 1, 1920 78264

HOW THE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS CAN ASSIST THE HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

The Federation Can-

1. Help to create public opinion in favor of a more rapid increase in a number of counties organized for home demonstration work.
2. Be the medium through which the needs of home demonstration work in the States may be brought to the attention of the respective state federations.
3. Give publicity to the results obtained in the home demonstration work.
4. Bring to the attention of the members of the federation of women's clubs of organizing home demonstration work.
5. Bring to the attention of the public the need for home demonstration work, in their respective states, and the reasons for using public funds for the support.
6. Cooperate with the women of the home demonstration organization in work which is of interest to rural and urban women such a establishing rest rooms for rural women in every urban center.

* The increase in the number of organized counties in 1918 and 1919 was made possible by the agricultural emergency fund which was withdrawn June 30, 1919.